## HIGHLIGHTS Armenia School Connectivity Program









June, 2007

# Transfer of the Armenia School Connectivity Program from the U.S. Government to the Republic of Armenia Government



On May 23, 2007, the Armenia School Connectivity Program hosted a ceremony to honor the ASCP's participants and those that have worked throughout the years to contribute to the program's success. The event also provided an official platform for the transfer of the Armenia School Connectivity Program from U.S. Government funding and implementation to that of the Republic of Armenia. The event welcomed such high ranking officials as the U.S. Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Anthony Godfrey, and the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Levon Mkrtchyan. Mr. Marik String and Mr. Paul Foldi, representing the office of the Honorable U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, were also present at the event, as were the principals of the program's 330 network schools and key partners participating in the program transfer processes.

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During formal welcoming remarks, U.S. and R.A. government officials extolled the connectivity program and the invaluable contributions that ASCP has made to the country's schools. During Mr. Godfrey's speech, he shared that the U.S. Embassy was proud of the Armenia School Connectivity Program, noting that, "for the future of Armenia, it is very important that students become increasingly aware of computers and try to use them even more effectively."

The Minister of Education and Science then spoke, stressing that the ASCP has been an imperative for Armenia. He stated that, "especially in remote village schools with low student enrollment, students have lacked access to computers, and teachers have gone without basic opportunities for professional development." He reassured the audience that the R.A. Government is fully committed to safeguarding the program's technical capacity and will make efforts to preserve the tremendous human resources currently within the program. Mr. Mkrtchyan shared that the vision of the Ministry of Education and Science is to have all schools of Armenia involved in a network. By blending the Armenia Connectivity Program's future with the current goals of the Armenia Education Relevance and Quality Program, Armenian schools may reach full connectivity within a few years.





Mr. Areg Grigoryan, Director of the National Center for Educational Technologies, the administrating agency of the program as of July 30, 2007, and Mr. Mourad Mouradyan, Executive Director of Harmony Information Technologies and Education Development Foundation, Project Harmony's current partner for technical aspects of the program, also spoke to the audience about their optimistic visions for the ASCP. Both communicated their satisfaction with the smooth and well-planned transfer of the program's technical components from one implementer to another, indicating that the success of the transfer will empower the ASCP network to continue to function, develop and expand throughout all of Armenia.

The main highlights of the events followed welcoming speeches, and included the presentation of awards for winners in the Online Scrapbook Project, the acknowledgement of Armenian teachers with outstanding contributions in US-AM partnership projects and the official signing of contracts to formalize the transfer of the ASCP.

The Online Scrapbook Project was a competition among network schools to highlight the impact and success of the ASCP during its six years of operation. The Online Scrapbook Competition asked schools to creatively present the work they had achieved in the framework of the ASCP on the subjects of access to information, communication,

religion, culture, education and civics. The materials submitted by the schools in the online space <a href="http://projects.ascp.am/scrapbook">http://projects.ascp.am/scrapbook</a>, reflected the role and meaning of ASCP in the lives of teachers and students, as well as school and local communities. In total, 50 ASCP schools participated in the competition and were then able to personally cast online votes for the best work. Each of the 22 winning schools, identified through the online votes of 200 schools, received an LCD Benq Computer Monitor 19 to enhance the technical capacity of their Internet Computer Centers.

The following schools were selected as winners in the Online Scrapbook Competition:

- 1. Kotayk, Hrazdan Secondary School # 1
- 2. Armavir, Vagharshapat Secondary School # 2 after Grigor Narekatsi
- 3. Lori, Vanadzor Secondary School # 1 after Vazgen 1 Catholicos of all Armenians
- 4. Syunik, Goris Secondary School # 3 after Youri Bakhshyan
- 5. Yerevan, Yerevan Secondary School # 105
- 6. Shirak, Artik Secondary School # 3
- 7. Armavir, Mayissyan Secondary School
- 8. Shirak, Gyumri Secondary School #26 after A. Isahakyan
- 9. Yerevan, Yerevan Secondary School # 65 after A. Leo
- 10. Lori, Vanadzor Secondary School # 20
- 11. Syunik, Sisian Secondary School # 2
- 12. Kotayk, Abovyan Secondary School # 10
- 13. Ararat, Qaghtsrashen Secondary School
- 14. Vayots Dzor, Yeghegnadzor Secondary School # 3
- 15. Gegharkunik, Sevan Secondary School # 4
- 16. Tavush, Dilijan Secondary School # 4
- 17. Ararat, Poqr Vedi Secondary School
- 18. Ararat, Kanachut Secondary School
- 19. Aragatsotn, Karby Secondary School after V. Tekeyan
- 20. Vayots Dzor, Aghavnadzor Secondary School
- 21. Gegharkunik, Zolakar Secondary School #2 after A. Vardanyan
- 22. Gegharkunik, Chambarak Secondary School # 2

ASCP staff was also honored to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of a number of program teachers. As active participants in partnership projects with U.S. schools, these teachers demonstrated excellence in their work and a commitment to the ASCP's goal of fostering positive cross-cultural understanding.

The ceremony concluded with the signing of official contracts to transfer the ASCP to the Republic of Armenia.

individual conversations During throughout the event, many of the school principals expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the ASCP and its staff throughout the past six years. Armavir Mayisyan Secondary School Principal, Mr. Petrosyan, requested the opportunity to publicly express his school's gratefulness to the program, excitedly declaring that, "ASCP has been nothing but a miracle for the school students." Many principals echoed this powerful message, reinforcing to all those in attendance the significance of the program's impact in communities throughout Armenia.



The ceremony attracted the attention of diverse media representatives and was covered extensively by all main public and private television channels, including *H1* and *H2* channels, Hayastani Hanrapetutyun, Aravot, Mediamax, Arminfo, Armenpress and Lragir.am.

## ASCP Small Grants 2006 – 2007 Initiative

From October 2006 – March 2007, ASCP administered an open competition to award small grants to ASCP network schools. The purpose of the Small Grants Initiative was to enable ASCP schools to design and implement online and offline projects that support the goals and priority themes of the program.

The initiative raised a genuine interest among the ASCP schools. Proposals from 91 of the network's 330 schools (totaling 27% of ASCP schools) were submitted from all eleven regions of Armenia. The selection committee, which was comprised of representatives from the U.S. Embassy, Project Harmony and Harmony Information Technologies and Education Development Fund, evaluated all works and awarded 27 applicants with small grants to implement short-term projects. All projects were designed to promote and advance the resources and opportunities of their Internet Computer Centers (ICC).

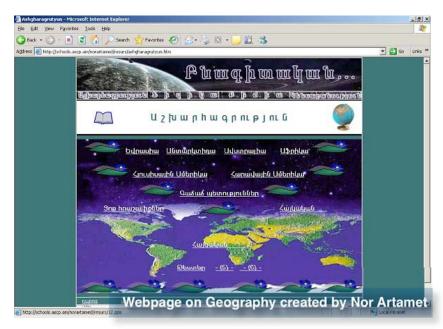
Projects focused primarily on the following themes:

- o Raising awareness about election procedures
- o Promotion of civil society and democracy
- o Strengthening ties between school, ICC, and community
- o Creation of Armenian language educational resources
- o Introducing new data processing system in schools
- o Establishing an ICC-Affiliated Movie Theatre
- o Promotion of Volunteerism
- o Promotion of Gender Issues

Sixteen projects resulted in the creation of brochures, including brochures to outline election guidelines, provide information on cultural and historical memorials, improve the connections among ICC, communities, and schools, and promote civil society and democracy. In total, 27 booklets were produced. Hrazdan # 1 Secondary School published booklets on the *Human Rights General Convention* and *Children's Legal Status*, both of which discuss basic principals of human rights and explore related articles and laws in the Armenian constitution.

Below are four projects that created websites.

- 1) <a href="http://schools.ascp.am/norartamed/resurs/ashgharagrutyun.htm">http://schools.ascp.am/norartamed/resurs/ashgharagrutyun.htm</a> Nor Artamet Secondary School (Kotayk region) developed an Armenian web page on natural sciences. The web page is comprised of four sections Geography, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
- 2) <a href="http://www.ascp.am/en/websites.html">http://www.ascp.am/en/websites.html</a>
- Anania Shirakatsi Educational Complex (Yerevan) developed a web page on Olympiads (subject-based educational competitions). The site contains information about Olympiads conducted on a range of school subjects from 2001-2006. Also included are examples of Olympiad questions and puzzles, correct answers, generated results, assessment methodologies, winner lists and pictures.
- 3) www.hrr.am Yerevan Secondary School # 177 developed a forum space for discussions on electoral rights. The site includes a directory of useful links relating to election law. The school has registered the domain name for the entire year to enable students to continue online discussion following upcoming Armenian Parliamentary elections in May 2007.



4) <a href="http://schools.ascp.am/vanadzor1/web\_mankatun/index.htm">http://schools.ascp.am/vanadzor1/web\_mankatun/index.htm</a> - Students from Vanadzor Secondary School #1 partnered with children at Vanadzor Orphanage to create a website about the Orphanage, including its history, its residents, and a photo gallery. All participating students had completed the Web Design Training at the ICC of Vanadzor Secondary School #1.

Three CDs were created under the Small Grants Initiative.

*Improving the Teaching of Civics Education* – At Masis Secondary School #1, 12 Armenian Language resources on civics education were compiled, edited, formatted in PowerPoint and burned on CDs. The CDs were then distributed to civics educators at Masis Secondary School #1 and to neighboring schools in the region.

**Digitalization of Armenian Literature – Gyumri Secondary School #29 after M. Mashtots** created two Armenian Language resources presenting the lives and works of two celebrated Armenian writers – Hovhannes Shiraz and Avetik Isahakyan. The CDs include songs, pictures and fragments of the writers' lives, accompanied by stories about the writers and citation of their poems.

A video on *Election Campaign and ICC* was filmed by Stepanavan Secondary School #3 and broadcast by a local TV channel. The film *Election Games*, which lasts about an hour, highlights the focal point of their project by explaining the process of elections for the President of the Students' Council, an event that included participation of the school's administration, teachers and 154 students as they selected among the ninth and tenth grade students balloting for the position. An Election Committee, Court, and Committee of impartial observers were designated to assist in ensuring a smooth and transparent election. In an interview given to Fortuna TV Station, the newly elected President expressed his gratitude to his supporters and his belief that their joint work would make significant changes within the school.

In addition to the aforementioned successes of the Small Grants Initiative, fifteen posters were also designed by grantee schools. The themes and designs of the posters varied greatly – some using graphics, some hand-drawn and some presented as collages. At Yerevan Secondary School # 69 after A. Sakharov, within their *Active School in Active Community* project, the project team developed creative posters on which students expressed attitudes about the harmful affects of unhealthy life choices, including drug abuse and trafficking. On the posters, the students also made suggestions on ways to combat these social problems.

## **Eleven ASCP Schools of Ararat Region Partner to Create a Bilingual Website**

On April 18, Artashat Secondary School #4 hosted a presentation to launch the bilingual website entitled *Ararat*. The site was developed by Elmira Galstyan, the staff person of the Kanachut Village School Internet



Computer Center (ICC). The materials for the site were gathered and edited by 11 of the 29 ASCP schools in the Ararat region. The participating secondary schools were Artashat #4, Ghukasavan, Shahumyan, Pokr Vedi, Ayntap #1, Ararat #1, Masis #1, Azatavan, Kakhtsrashen, Kanachut and Verin Dvin. The bilingual website contains historical information about the Ararat region, past capitals, towns of Ararat, agricultural data, famous people from Ararat and information about the population and minorities of the region. Each category contains subsections with further details about the subject.

During the presentation, students from each of the schools involved presented one topic to the audience. The presentation of the website was also illustrated by two local media stations — Anna TV and Rafnas Cable TV. An article on the presentation was published in the newspaper *Artashat*.

## Yeghegnadzor Secondary School # 3 Students Stage Armenian Kings

Within the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), Yeghegnadzor Secondary School # 3 organized various events, such as clean up, tree planting and planting flowers around the school. On May 4, as part of the GYSD celebration, the school organized an event-show entitled "The Armenian Kings" for the school and the city community. The event aimed at raising awareness about the Armenian history through presenting facts of heroism and victories during the past days. The school administration rented the hall of Yeghegnadzor Museum, and invited local government, colleges and other institutions to attend the event.



Staging the "Armenian Kings", the students were dressed in royal suits and crowns. The accessories were provided by the Youth Creative Center. They researched information from the Internet as well as from the history books. "The project was rather interesting and enabled the kids to think independently and improvise, meanwhile remaining close to the reality... I was so pleased to see the kids' enthusiasm when finding useful information or picture, and asking me for more Internet searching engines", said the ICC staff Christine Mkhitaryan. The event was accompanied by a Ppt presentation introducing the coins specific to each era, dresses and traditions. "There is so much available information today, that the only thing one needs is desire to find... If some years ago I were told that this could be possible soon, I wouldn't believe. Technology allows us to experiment and realize the hardest fantasy of human beings", said the school principal Karine Harutyunyan.

## Mural Symbolizing Peace and International Understanding

Stepanavan Secondary School # 3 held a closing assembly to present outcomes of a partnership project implemented in the fall of 2006 with New Dimensions High School in Florida. Not only did the online partnership foster students' computer literacy and language skills, students were more importantly provided the opportunity to explore similarities and differences between their cultures.

During the project, students in Armenia and the U.S. discussed various forms of art, including music, sculpture, painting and fashion, and the rich cultural values that are expressed through these diverse art forms. Recognizing that art has often been used to communicate greater social messages, the partner schools chose to create murals in each school that would symbolize peace and international understanding.

Each school announced a competition among students to create a draft design for the mural. Once a design was selected, Stepanavan Secondary School used money donated by New Dimensions High School to purchase supplies for the completion of the mural. In collaboration with their U.S. partner school, Stepanavan School # 3 painted the mural on the school wall to remind the school community of the strong global partnership that was created.



At the end of the project, the students posted farewell messages in the online forum and shared their reflections of the partnership project. Armenian student Tigran Manvelyan noted, "I am very happy to have participated in this program. I've learned so many interesting things about American culture. I'll remember this experience forever".



American student Michael Garcia shared his thoughts with his peers in Armenia: "Over the last few months it has been a part of my life I'll never forget. Being able to speak with you was a pleasure. Now not only do I have new friends but I also have learned a lot about Armenia. For example, I have come to see we have many similarities in music, religion, culture, and much more. Having the chance to be in this project has been something many kids would have wanted to do, and fortunately I was one to be able to participate in this once in a lifetime experience. So I am taking the chance to tell you that I really appreciate that you took the time to chat with us too. Hopefully, you receive our donation well and that you can improve things in your school."

The unveiling of the mural at Stepanavan Secondary School evolved into a large celebration. During the presentation of the artwork, the school choir sang the Armenian and American national anthems and conveyed their appreciation to the students and project organizer for the opportunity to establish such a valuable partnership between classes in the two countries.

## Superstitions are Common in Different Parts of the World

On April 2007, students and teachers at Yerevan Secondary School #27 came together to showcase their online project on the subject of cultural influences within folk tales, native traditions, superstitions and holidays. The presentation was a celebration of the hard work that the class — in partnership with Greenbanks Elementary-Middle School in West Virginia — had done throughout the fall 2006 semester. Armenian teacher Susanna Mnatsakanyan directed the project, regularly working with her students to assist them in their research.

The presentation of their project lasted for nearly an hour, as students discussed the commonality of

superstitions within Armenian and American culture. A booklet supplemented the PowerPoint presentation, during which Susanna Mnatsakanyan spoke about her and her students' exceptional contributions to the project.

During the course of the three-month project and regular communication with their American partners, students and teachers discussed numerous superstitions, often illustrating them with visual aids, including photos and drawings. The students worked



on their research on the Internet and in the library, as well as spoke with their parents, grandparents, peers and teachers. In the framework of the project, students also conducted a survey among the school population to discover what superstitions pervade daily life or relate to holidays and cultural customs.

To broaden their research, Mnatsakanyan's students consulted an expert in the field of folk wisdom, and also visited an ethnographic museum to become acquainted with and learn to make Armenian amulets. One Armenian student, Tatev Avetisyan, expressed her enthusiasm with the collaboration: "I am very much pleased with this project as I learned a lot of things not only about American beliefs, superstitions, holidays and customs, but also about ours." American student Frederica Gardner noted that, "I think the benefits of this project were that we got to learn about another country I didn't know anything about."

As a result of the survey, students concluded that most Armenians are far less superstitious than they were a century ago, though many beliefs still hold true, even if less pervasive. Students also found, much to their pleasant surprise, that despite living in very different regions of the world, there were a number of striking similarities between Armenian and American superstitions and their origins. Students explored those similarities and also worked to identify possible explanations for the durability of superstitions as a element of culture.

In May 2007, upon completion of the project, the Armenian students sent their handmade amulets to their U.S. partners.

## Global Youth Service Day in Armenia



by the local or national media outlets.

Youth in Armenia joined millions of young people around the world and from more than one hundred countries to engage in community service activities for the 8th Annual Global Youth Service Day. It was the third year that Project Harmony has served as the National Lead Agency for GYSD in Armenia.

The Armenia School Connectivity Program Network Schools in all 11 regions of Armenia were actively involved in the festivities. From April 21-23, network school students from 280 of the 330 ASCP schools, and a total of 7,750 people, participated in GYSD in Armenia, helping to plant more than 1,000 trees and conduct projects to support their communities. Much of the youths' work received national attention, with more than ten events covered



Several events took place in Maissian village, Armavir region, where students, teachers and community members enthusiastically took part in the activities, including a tree planting on April 21 in the village's Cultural Club Yard. Ninth and tenth grade students were joined by David Simpson, Project Harmony Country Director, Mr. Petrosyan, Principal of Mayissyan Village School, and representatives from Project Harmony and Harmony Foundation, to plant 100 trees that were generously donated by local authorities.

Mayissyan Secondary School's fifth grade students participated in a remembrance event devoted to Ashot Hakobyan, who was killed in the Karabakh War. The class was renamed in memory of Ashot Hakobyan, and on April 21, the students visited a

monument devoted to victims of the war. Through poems and words of remembrance, students demonstrated the importance honoring their heroes.

Later in the day, Internet Computer Center teachers and students at Mayissyan Secondary School led a PowerPoint presentation discussing Armenian Olympic athletes. Using the Internet for research, students discovered a wealth of fascinating information that they shared with the entire student population.

In total, GYSD activities in the region of Armavir brought together 250 community members, 285 students and 70 teachers.

Also on April 21, three school teachers accompanied 25 eighth and ninth grade students to Vanadzor Elderly House in Lori region. The aim of the visit was simply to brighten the day of the home's residents and provide an



opportunity for residents to enjoy a change in their daily activities. During their visit, the students led a presentation on "For the Sake of Honor," a work by Armenian writer Shirvanzadeh. The gathering also included a recitation of poems, as well as singing and dancing. The children ended their time at the Elderly House by sharing homemade desserts that students had prepared for the senior citizens. Among those in attendance was the local NGO Crossed Way, as well as representatives from *Lori*, a local Vanadzor-based TV station that later broadcast the students' project.



On April 21, an event entitled *Let's Decorate Our School* was led by the Student Council of Stepanavan School #3. The purpose of the event was to clean the school grounds and decorate the school and its surroundings in order to cultivate a sense of volunteerism among the students. Seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grade students participated in the activities, which also included planting a flower garden on the property. Their work was followed by a celebration of culture through singing, dancing, and comedy, in a presentation open to school staff and community members.

In the region of Lori, seven other schools engaged in cleaning activities within their communities and three other schools conducted open door activities. The total number of participants was about 200 people.

## **Armenian-American School Collaboration**

Every April of the last four years, Pokr Vedi Secondary School of Ararat region has hosted students, parents and teachers from Glendale-based Shamlyan College. The trip is designed so that guests are able to familiarize themselves with the school, experience village life, visit historic Khor Virap — Armenian's symbolic and legendary "Deep Dungeon" monastery — and explore areas of interest in their study of Armenian history and culture.

Before traveling to Armenia, Shamlyan College students, parents and teachers organize a concert to raise funds for their trip. As a result of the concert, and a number of other fundraising activities, the generated amount is transferred to Pokr Vedi through the Armenian Educational Foundation. In turn, Pokr Vedi students provide gifts and souvenirs to their American peers. Many students also maintain communication with their guests through email and online forums.

Thanks to the continued relationship and annual donations of Shamlyan College, Pokr Vedi Secondary School has been able to purchase window blinds and UPSs for the school Internet Computer Center, and has renovated the school's entrance and a section of the building.



## **ASCP Awards Outstanding Educators**

As the Armenia School Connectivity Program comes to an end, Project Harmony staff is delighted to honor its most outstanding program participants. Ten educators from across the United States and fifteen educators from across Armenia received recognition for excellent performance in their partnership projects and for contributing to sustainable international collaboration. Successful projects among the winners ranged from planting peace gardens and painting murals of understanding, to creating books and films about life in their communities. Whatever the project, the outcome was the same — an increased appreciation of diversity, an enhanced sense of global community and newfound friendships to advance cross-cultural understanding.

All award winning teachers received framed certificates and classroom resource kits that include books and a DVD to help develop service learning as a cornerstone of education and foster global citizenship among students.

When informed of the news that she had been selected as among the top educators, Ohio teacher Judy Conrad expressed her deep appreciation for the opportunity to participate in ASCP. "With the end of the current projects, we are reaching the end of an exciting and worthwhile chapter in the life of students in our school as well as my life," she notes. Conrad goes on to say that "over the past two and a half years, my students have engaged in at least five collaborative projects with students in Armenia. Our most successful project was the peace garden with students in Vanadzor, which we continue to maintain and are currently expanding. Through ASCP, we have gained respect and admiration for our Armenian friends through these connections."

Another top educator, Sylvia Hyde, said of the program that: "throughout the last three years, my students have exchanged conversation about their lives, their communities, their sense of order in the world, and their hopes and suggestions for conflict resolution. ASCP has provided an exemplary world experience for my students by planting seeds of friendship and collaboration." She closes by offering her "grateful appreciation for the hundreds of Indiana teens who now have a friend in Armenia."

Top Ten Educators in the USA:

- 1. Nicolle Boujaber-Diederichs
- 2. Judith Conrad
- 3. John Davidek
- 4. Jim Frenchik
- Svlvia Hvde
- 6. Amy Nicol
- 7. Martin O'Brien
- 8. Deborah Stapleton
- 9. Debbie Stewart
- 10. Kathy VanLoan

The following fifteen teachers in Armenia were awarded the Best Partner Teacher nomination:

- 1. Shushanik Badeyan, Gavar Secondary School # 9
- 2. Ashot Kocharyan, Gyumri Secondary School # 20,
- 3. Marine Ishkhanyan, Yerevan Secondary School # 131
- 4. Lusine Sargsyan, Ranchpar Secondary School,
- 5. Ruzanna Antonyan, Vanadzor Secondary School # 19
- 6. Svetlana Ohanjanyan, Yerevan Secondary School # 129
- 7. Susanna Mnatsakanyan, Yerevan Secondary School # 27
- 8. Manya Khachatryan, Armavir Secondary School # 6
- 9. Ruzanna Manvelyan, Stepanavan Secondary School # 3
- 10. Aida Chshmarityan, Stepanavan Secondary School # 2
- 11. Armen Kocharyan, Gyumri Secondary School # 29
- 12. Haykuhi Sekhposyan, Gyumri Teachers' Training University Base College
- 13. Anahit Ishkhanyan, Yerevan Secondary School # 20
- 14. Hermine Hayroyan, Surenavan Secondary School
- 15. Gohar Grigoryan, Yerevan Secondary School # 105

## **U.S. Government Representatives visit ASCP School in Gyumri**



May 24, 2007, marked an exciting day for students at Gyumri Secondary School # 29 in Shirak Region. Marik String and Paul Foldi, U.S. Government officials traveling to Armenia, paid a visit to the school's Internet Computer Center operating within the Armenia School Connectivity Program.

Gyumri Secondary School #29 has been an active participant within ASCP, partnering in an online educational exchange with Canajoharie High School in Canajoharie, New York. Teachers and students have utilized the internet to build relationships between the schools and to explore the multifaceted aspects of culture and the commonalities that unite youth around the globe. Educators Armen Kocharyan in Armenia, and Kate VanLoan in New York, provided guidance

to students as they exchanged knowledge and insights about the subject with their peers.

Kocharyan's students at Gyumri were subsequently thrilled to learn that they would have the opportunity to meet with U.S. officials to share the success of their collaborative project. Students discussed with the representatives the many lessons learned about American culture, the attitudes of American youth, and information about American and Armenian musicians, artists, and filmmakers, a topic extensively talked about during Gyumri and Canajoharie's partnership. Students shared not only their perceptions of the similarities between American and Armenian cultures, but also some of the challenges they encountered communicating cross-culturally. With smiles they mentioned that they occasionally had to seek their teacher's help to interpret the messages from their partners across the ocean. Students lastly showed a web



site to the delegation that is currently being developed to feature the work of the partnership.

As the meeting progressed, students inquired about the mission and goals of the Americans' visit to Armenia. String and Foldi explained that the purpose of their trip was to gain insights into the ways in which U.S. Government funded programs are operating in Armenia, and what participants think of and learn from these programs. The students were quite interested to learn from String and Foldi about the American Corner in Gyumri, which the U.S. delegation had visited prior to their visit to the school. Finally, students and their American guests posed for photos to remember the extraordinary day and the wonderfully informative interactions.

## THE ARMENIA SCHOOL CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM IS A PROGRAM OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND IMPLEMENTED BY PROJECT HARMONY



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